BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC Stats

Infoline

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- **Commodity exports drop 5.5% in August**
- **New home prices dip 0.7% in August**
- **Adult criminal offenses fall 6.5% in 2010/2011**

Exports

- **There was a 5.5% (*seasonally adjusted*) drop in the value of B.C.'s commodity exports in August as large declines in shipments of energy products (-24.1%) and machinery, equipment and automobiles (-13.3%) offset increases in exports of other goods, including a 13.2% jump in shipments of agriculture and fish products.**

  Exports to the United States climbed 4.7%, but shipments to the rest of the world slumped 13.7%. Exports of energy products to the U.S. jumped 22.2%, but energy exports to the rest of the world fell 39.8%. Similarly, a 1.5% increase in shipments of machinery, equipment and automobiles to the U.S. was more than offset by a 36.3% drop in exports of these goods to the rest of the world.

  Data Source: BC Stats & Statistics Canada

The Economy

- **The value of building permits issued by B.C. municipalities fell 15.8% (*seasonally adjusted*) in August.** Planned spending on residential projects fell sharply (-22.5%), while non-residential project intentions dipped (-1.5%).

  Kelowna recorded a 36.6% increase in the value of building permits issued in August, while other parts of the province posted double-digit declines. Out of the B.C.'s major census metropolitan areas, permits fell the most in Abbotsford-Mission (-25.2%), followed by Vancouver (-22.8%), and Victoria (-22.0%).

  Nationally, the value of building permits issued in August rose 7.9%, driven entirely by non-residential permits (+25.2%), while intentions for residential projects were lower (-2.3%). Strong demand in Alberta (+17.9%) and Ontario (+16.2%) boosted the national rate, particularly non-residential permits in Ontario, which rose 60.7%.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The value of building permits issued from January to August in British Columbia was 18.5% (*unadjusted*) higher than in the same period in 2011.** Heightened building intentions in Mainland/Southwest (+23.2%) and North coast (+646.4%) drove the increase. Building permits, particularly for industrial, commercial, and institutional projects, in Northeast (+12.9%) and Cariboo (+37.9%) reflected the rise in new development plans. In Kootenay, permits were up 1.1%.

  In Vancouver Island/Coast, permits were down 14.5%, as plans for residential (-13.4%) commercial (-12.4%) and institutional (-34.2%) projects fell. The value of permits in Thompson/Okanagan was 8.3% lower, dampened by fewer plans in the North Okanagan (-48.2%). In Nechako, the value of permits issued fell slightly (-2.3%).

  Data Source: BC Stats & Statistics Canada

- **The average cost for a new home (house and land) in British Columbia (*unadjusted*) edged down (-0.7%) in August, compared to the same month in the previous year.** Lower house prices (-1.4%) were behind the decline, as land values inched up (+0.2%). In Vancouver, prices dipped 0.4%, due to lower home

Report — No report this issue

Did you know...

In the event of an area-wide emergency, 54% of Canadians would use social media networks to let friends and family know that they are safe, 31% would not, and 14% are undecided.

Source: Ipsos

prices (-1.1%), as land values rose slightly (+0.3%). Prices in Victoria fell 3.0%, reflecting a decline in both home (-3.4%) and land (-1.4%) prices. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Crime

- **The total number of criminal offenses tried in adult courts in British Columbia fell 6.5% to 43,610 cases in 2010/2011, compared to 2009/2010.** Court cases that involved instances of crimes against a person dipped 2.5% overall, with homicide (-10.7%), attempted murder (-68.2%), robbery (-16.7%), and major assault (-4.5%) offenses all dropping, while sexual assault (+13.4%), other sexual offenses (+23.4%), and criminal harassment (+6.5%) offenses escalated.

  The number of offenses categorized as crimes against property declined (-10.0%) for the third straight period, as there were fewer reported cases of theft (-10.9%), break & enter (-8.3%), fraud (-1.4%), mischief (-3.8%), and possession of stolen property (-24.2%).

  Traffic offenses falling under the criminal code declined 3.7% in 2010/2011, following an 8.6% spike in 2009/2010. Impaired driving fell to 6,739 offenses (-5.1%), while other traffic offenses increased in number (+4.0%). Drug possession (-17.4%) and trafficking (-22.8%) offenses both continued to drop.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Youth courts in British Columbia saw the total number of cases drop (-9.4%) to 3,447 counts in 2010/2011, marking the third consecutive period of decline.** Cases involving youth ages 16 and 17 years old fell by 9.6% in 2010/2011, and dropped by 7.8% for 12 to 15-year-olds. Robbery (+5.7%), other sexual offenses (+20.0%), and criminal harassment (+100.0%) cases all rose, while there was a reduction in the number of sexual assault (-7.1%), major assault (-7.6%), uttering threats (-2.2%), drug possession (-20.9%), and drug trafficking (-23.2%) cases.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

The World

- **The trade deficit in the United States rose to $44.2 billion in August.** The value of exports fell to $181.3 billion (-1.0%), and imports declined slightly, to $225.5 billion (-0.1%). The goods deficit grew by $1.5 billion, as exports of goods declined 1.6%, and goods imported fell 0.4%. The services surplus narrowed to $15.1 billion, with service exports increasing at a slightly slower rate (+0.4%) than service imports (+1.3%).

  Compared to the same period last year, the goods and services trade deficit has shrunk by $0.6 billion, with exports (+1.6%) and imports (+1.0%) both rising.

  Data Source: US Census Bureau

Health

- **October 10th was World Mental Health Day.** In 2010/2011, the rate of hospitalization in British Columbia due to mental illness was 594 *(age-standardized)* people per 100,000 of the population, above the national average of 467. The incidence was higher for men, with 635 men hospitalized, compared to 552 women, per 100,000, annually. The 30-day readmission rate for patients hospitalized due to mental illness was 13.0%, slightly higher than the national rate of 11.4%. There were 734 mental illness patient days spent in the hospital, per 10,000 of the population in British Columbia. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jul 1/2012	% change on one year ago
BC	4,622.6	1.0
Canada	34,880.5	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 8)		
(BC - at market prices)	2010	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	203,147	5.9
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	167,140	3.0
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	36,899	1.4
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	26,166	2.2
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Jul 2012	3,203	0.6
Merchandise Exports - Aug 2012	2,441	-5.5
Retail Sales - Jul 2012	5,128	0.7
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on one year ago	12-month avg % change
(all items - Aug 2012)		
BC	1.0	1.7
Vancouver	1.4	1.9
Victoria	0.9	1.6
Canada	1.2	2.1
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)	Sep 2012	
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	5.7	
Labour Force - BC	2,503.4	0.6
Employed - BC	2,328.3	0.2
Unemployed - BC	175.1	5.7
		Aug 2012
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.0	6.7
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.4	7.3
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Oct 10/2012	Oct 12/2011
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.10	3.50
- 5 year	5.24	5.29
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Oct 10/2012	Oct 12/2011
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9787	1.0164
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0197	0.9830
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Sep 2012	
BC	858.69	1.8
Canada	876.66	3.7

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Open Data, Census Area Profiles

Here's where you can get at the datasets for all areas, large and small. We'll be adding more as 2011 Census data are released, as well as additional historical tables – so keep coming back! See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Key Indicators

A new way to stay current!. We've added a page to put the latest highlights and summary figures at your fingertips.-See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/KeyIndicators.aspx

Solid Waste Generation Forecast

This report highlights three projection scenarios with varying degrees of measures taken to divert waste from British Columbia landfills. The report includes a summary of the methodology and the results of the forecast for each scenario from 2010 through 2025. Read this at:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/EnvironmentalStatistics/Analysis.aspx

Census 2011 Fast Facts

The age-sex data from the 2011 Census have been released. For the first time, since reporting began, persons 65 years of age and older outnumbered 0 to 14 year-olds in BC. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/2011Census.aspx

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https://twitter.com/#!/bcstats

Released this week by BC Stats

- Exports, August 2012

Released next week

- Consumer Price Index, September 2011

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